

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01301 012213Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----012229 099610 /72-70

O 012135Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5020

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 1301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: CASC, PORS, GT  
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF DUAL NATIONAL US-Guatemalan CITIZEN

REF: GUATEMALA 1117

1. AFTER CONSULTING WITH BROL FAMILY, NOTTEBOMS PUT  
DUMMY AD IN PAPER AS INSTRUCTED BY KIDNAPPERS (REFTEL).  
AD PROVIDED FAVORABLE SIGNAL AS REQUESTED, BUT IN  
VEILED LANGUAGE TOLD KIDNAPPERS THEY WOULD HAVE TO DEAL  
WITH BROLS DIRECTLY AND NOT WITH NOTTEBOMS.

2. OVER WEEKEND THERE WERE THREE DIFFERENT CONTACTS WITH  
THE KIDNAPPERS. LATE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 25 MAN,  
SPEAKING IN GERMAN, TELEPHONED TOMMY NOTTEBOM (NOTTEBOMS,  
ALTHOUGH GUATEMALANS, ARE OF GERMAN ORIGIN) ASKING MEANING  
OF AD. NOTTEBOM MADE CLEAR DISCUSSION OF RANSOM TERMS  
WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE DIRECTLY WITH BROLS. EVENING  
FEBRUARY 27, NICOLAS BROL, BROTHER OF KIDNAP VICTIM,  
RECEIVED INSTRUCTION BY TELEPHONE BY WHAT HE PRESUMED WAS  
A YOUNG MAN TO GO PICK UP WRITTEN MESSAGE UNDER PARK  
BENCH IN FRONT OF CAMINO REAL HOTEL, A FEW BLOCKS DOWN  
THE STREET FROM CHANCERY. NOTE INSTRUCTED NICOLAS  
BROL TO GO TO CAMINO REAL WHERE HE WOULD BE CONTACTED.  
SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL AT HOTEL, BROL WAS PAGED FOR  
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TELEPHONE CALL AND YET ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF  
KIDNAPPERS TALKED TO HIM, TAKING EXTREMELY TOUGH LINE  
SAYING THAT THIS WAS LAST CHANCE AND THAT IF FAMILY  
NOT WILLING AGREE NEGOTIATIONS THEN NEXT MESSAGE WOULD  
SAY WHERE BROL'S BODY COULD BE FOUND. KIDNAPPERS WOULD  
CONTACT FAMILY AROUND 4 PM NEXT DAY FOR FAMILY'S DECISION.

3. AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 28 NICOLAS BROL RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AT HOME FROM ANOTHER MAN WHO GAVE HIM INSTRUCTIONS TO PROCEED BY A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE WHICH ENDED UP IN OFFICE OF HIS SON-IN-LAW DR. SOSA AT HERRARA-LLERANDI HOSPITAL, ONE OF PRINCIPAL HOSPITALS IN RESIDENTIAL AREA NEAR EMBASSY. NICOLAS BROL INSISTED TO KIDNAPPER ON TAKING MRS. EDMUNDO BROL WITH HIM, AS BEING PRINCIPAL FAMILY MEMBER INVOLVED. WHEN NICOLAS BROL AND MRS. EDMUNDO BROL WERE AT DR. SOSA'S OFFICE THE SAME MAN WHO HAD CALLED NICOLAS 45 MINUTES BEFORE TELEPHONED AND AGREED TO TALK TO MRS. BROL. AFTER LENGTHY, DIFFICULT AND EMOTIONAL CONVERSATION MRS. BROL PERSUADED KIDNAPPER TO AGREE TO RANSOM SUM OF \$300 THOUSAND. WHEN SHE SAID THAT IT WOULD TAKE HER ANOTHER WEEK TO GET ALL THE MONEY TOGETHER, MAN REPLIED KIDNAPPERS COULD NOT WAIT THAT LONG AND THAT PAYMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY END OF THIS WEEK AT LATEST, AND THAT MRS. BROL WOULD HAVE TO PUT A CODED DUMMY AD IN PAPER CONFIRMING WILLINGNESS TO PAY RANSOM OF \$300 THOUSAND IN SPECIFIED DENOMINATIONS IN QUETZALS. KIDNAPPERS' HASTE TO TERMINATE CASE AND REACH AGREEMENT LEADS BROL FAMILY TO SPECULATE THAT KIDNAP VICTIM MAY BE ILL OR OTHERWISE BE IN POOR HEALTH. MRS. BROL ON TELEPHONE, REQUESTED KIDNAPPERS PROVIDE PROOF THAT HER HUSBAND WAS ALIVE BY REQUIRING THEM TO PROVIDE HER WITH CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING BROL'S FIRST WIFE.

4. DR. SOSA HAPPENED TO HAVE IN HIS OFFICE SOME TYPE OF TAPERECORDING MACHINE, SO CONVERSATION DESCRIBED ABOVE  
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PARA IS ON TAPE. KIDNAPPER WARNED MRS. BROL THAT IF SHE WENT TO POLICE ON MATTER NOT ONLY WOULD HER HUSBAND BE KILLED BUT THAT REPRISALS WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, ALL OF WHOM WERE KNOWN TO KIDNAPPERS. COMMERCIAL OFFICER RALPH GRIFFIN'S NAME WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY KIDNAPPER IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES FAMILY DOES NOT PLAN TO INFORM PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY CHIEF COLONEL QUINTEROS OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OR OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURNOVER OF RANSOM ONCE THESE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

5. DUMMY AD REQUESTED BY KIDNAPPERS WILL APPEAR IN MORNING PAPER, TOMORROW MARCH 2. DEPENDING UPON SPEED WITH WHICH KIDNAPPERS MOVE AND CONFIRMING INFORMATION ON EDMUNDO BROL'S BEING ALIVE WHICH MRS. BROL ASKED FOR, TRANSFER OF RANSOM MONEY COULD CONCEIVABLY BE EFFECTED AS EARLY AS TOMORROW MORNING. EITHER NICOLAS BROL OR MRS. EDMUNDO BROL OR BOTH WILL MAKE RANSOM DROP IF AGREEABLE TO KIDNAPPERS.

6. EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS TIME  
AND DATE OF DELIVERY OF RANSOM IS KNOWN.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

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